

Cutting off student loans would take those bootstraps away from millions of Americans.

Most importantly, student loans are a down-payment on a strong American economy that will lead the world into the next century. By gutting our student loan program, we consign our Nation to a less-educated populace and a less-productive future.

I urge a "yes" vote on the Lowey amendment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GUAM WAR RESTITUTION ACT

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced legislation on July 13 to address the mistakes that were made immediately following the occupation and liberation of Guam in World War II. My bill, the Guam War Restitution Act, H.R. 2041, would authorize the payment of claims for the people of Guam who endured the atrocities of the occupation, including death, personal injury, forced labor, forced march, and internment in concentration camps. The bill was reintroduced last month in honor of Mrs. Beatrice Flores Emsley, a great American and advocate of the Chamorro people, the indigenous people of Guam, and their struggle for recognition of their sacrifices on behalf of this great Nation during occupation of our island.

Mrs. Beatrice Flores Emsley has been a leader in this effort, and the Guam War Restitution Act was made possible to a large degree by her work over decades to see that justice is done. She is a legend on our island, and her story of courage and survival against all odds is an inspiration to our people. Mrs. Emsley miraculously survived an attempted beheading in the closing days of the Japanese occupation.

I respectfully acknowledge the work and contributions of Mrs. Beatrice Flores Emsley as I call on my colleagues to enact the Guam War Restitution Act.

This is a year of commemoration as we look back 50 years to the Allied victory in Europe and the Pacific and as we approach the 50th anniversary of the end of the war in the Pacific. This is also a year of healing for the remaining survivors and descendants of victims of wartime atrocities.

From the invasion day of December 10, 1941, to liberation day on July 21, 1944, Guam was the only American soil with American nationals occupied by an enemy; something that had not happened on American soil since the War of 1812. Throughout the occupation, the loyalty of our people to the United States would not bend.

In the months prior to the liberation, thousands of Chamorros were made to perform forced labor by building defenses and runways for the enemy or working in the rice paddies. Thousands were forced to march from their villages in northern and central Guam to internment camps in southern Guam at Maimai, Malojloj, and Manengon, where they awaited their fate—many did not live to see liberation. Once the Japanese realized the end of their occupation was close at hand, they began to commit horrendous atrocities including mass executions at Fena, Faha, and Tinta.

There have been several opportunities in the past for Guam to receive war reparations; however, all failed to include Guam or did not provide ample opportunity for the people of Guam to make their claims.

The Guam Meritorious Claims Act of 1946 contained several serious flaws that were brought to Congress's attention in 1947 by the Hopkins Commission and by Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes. Both the Hopkins Commission and Secretary Ickes recommended that the Guam Act be amended to correct serious problems. Both also noted that Guam was a unique case and that Guam deserved special consideration due to the loyalty of the people of Guam during the occupation.

These flaws could have been rectified had Guam been included in the 1948 War Claims Act or the 1962 amendment to that act. Unfortunately for the Chamorros, Guam was not included.

The Treaty of Peace with Japan, signed on September 8, 1951, by the United States, effectively precluded the just settlement of war reparations for the people of Guam against their former occupiers. In the treaty, the United States waived all claims of reparations against Japan by United States citizens. The bitter irony then is that the loyalty of the people of Guam to the United States has resulted in Guam being left out in war reparations.

So while the United States provided over \$2.0 billion to Japan and \$390 million to the Philippines after the war, Guam's total war claims have amounted to \$8.1 million, and the Guam War Reparations Commission has on file 3,365 cases of filed claims that were never settled.

The Guam War Restitution Act, H.R. 2041, will compensate the victims and survivors of the occupation, and it will assure them that the United States recognizes the true loyalty of the people of Guam.

Luisa Santos, a survivor of the Tinta Massacre, once told me,

I have fought hard and suffered, and no one has ever been able to help me or my children, but justice must be done. Even if you have to go to the president of the United States, let him know that the Japanese invaded Guam not because they hated the Chamorro people. The Japanese invaded Guam because we were part of the United States, and we were proud of it.

Mrs. Santos passed away shortly after our conversation.

Mrs. Emsley, in testifying before a House subcommittee on May 27, 1993, ended her statement with the powerful plea of one who has survived and who daily bears witness to the suffering of the Chamorro people. Mrs. Emsley simply ended by saying, "All we ask Mr. Chairman, is recognize us please, we are Americans."

We cannot wait and hope that the last survivors will pass away before any action is taken. This event will never be forgotten by the people of Guam, and the Government's unwillingness to compensate victims such as Mrs. Santos and Mrs. Emsley will only serve to deepen the wounds they have already incurred, and deepen the bitterness of the Chamorro people.

I believe it is time to truly begin the healing process, and passage of the Guam War Restitution Act is the first step.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2127) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Chairman, the reason I stand here today is because I believe that every American should have the right to go to college. We all know that earning a college degree is one of the best investments that an individual can make. With this appropriations bill, the Republicans are making the difficult task of earning that degree even tougher.

In the Republican tax plan, people who make \$200,000 a year will get a tax break. And who do you think will pay for it? You guessed it—our children, our neighbors' children, and their classmates through cuts to student aid.

This bill cuts financial aid by \$701 million. That is \$701 million too much. Over half of those cuts come from Pell grants; \$482 million, to be exact. The Republicans say that they are improving this program by raising the maximum grant level by \$100. But to do this, they have to eliminate 250,000 students from the program.

The cut to the Pell grant program is just one example of shortsighted Republican planning.

INTRODUCING THE HEALTH CENTERS
CONSOLIDATION ACT OF
1995

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce, with my colleague Mr. WAXMAN, the Health Centers Consolidation Act of 1995.

This legislation reduces administrative costs, simplifies and reduces paperwork, and lets health services programs focus more effectively on what they really are about—providing health care for the poor and medically needy, migrant farmworkers and their families, homeless people, and individuals who live in public housing. Without reducing the emphasis currently placed on any important aspects of health care, this bill allows programs that currently are authorized separately to consolidate, coordinate their efforts, and work as a real health care team to ensure better health and well-being for some of our most needy and fragile citizens. Today, health centers provide care and give hope for a better life to approximately 7.7 million of our citizens. They do this efficiently, cost effectively, and with a deep understanding and true dedication to the unique